

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 11376

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 4)

FOR AMBASSADOR WOLF FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR EG AU
SUBJECT: NEW EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA: AHMED
OSMAN

1. DR. AHMED OSMAN, CURRENTLY AN UNDER SECRETARY IN
MFA, HAS BEEN NAMED AMBASSADOR TO VIENNA. OSMAN IS
ONE OF SIX UNDERSECRETARIES, BUT HE IS THE MOST INVOLVED
IN SUBSTANTIVE POLICY FORMULATION AND THE ONLY ONE
WHOSE OFFICE IS LOCATED IN SAME BUILDING AS FOREIGN
MINISTER. HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERSEEING LEGAL DEPT,
AFRICAN DEPT AND INT'L ORGANIZATIONS.

2. OSMAN RECEIVED LL.B DEGREE FROM FUAD I (NOW CAIRO)
UNIVERSITY ZN 1945. HE HOLDS TWO ADDITIONAL UNDER-
GRADUATE DEGREES AS WELL AS PHD IN INTERNATIONAL LAW
FROM CAIRO UNIVERSITY (1963). HE JOINED THE FOREIGN
MINISTRY IN 1947 AND DURING 1950'S SERVED IN UN. HE
SERVED AS DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS IN
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1969 AND WAS DEPUTY PERMREP AT UN FROM 1971 TO 1975.
HE PARTICIPATED IN NEGOTIATION OF SINAI II AGREEMENT
AND WAS MEMBER OF EGYPTIAN DELEGATION TO DECEMBER 1973
MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE. HE THEN SERVED AS GOE
PERMREP TO THE UN EUROPEAN OFFICE IN GENEVA UNTIL HIS
APPOINTMENT AS MFA UNDER SECRETARY IN EARLY 1976.

3. OSMAN IS AN EXPERT ON INTERNATIONAL LAW, HAS PUBLISHED A NUMBER OF WORKS ON THAT SUBJECT, AND IS PROUD OF HIS WORK ON PRINCIPLE OF NONACQUISITION OF TERRITORY BY FORCE. OSMAN SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH AND FRENCH.

4. OSMAN, WHILE FRIENDLY TO AMERICANS, HAS BEEN A PERSISTENT CRITIC OF U.S. POLICY IN MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA. HE TENDS TO BELIEVE IN CONSPIRACY THEORY AND SEES HIDDEN HAND OF USG--THROUGH CIA OR SOME OTHER AGENCY--AT WORK IN EVERY SITUATION, E.G. CURRENT ARAB DISUNITY, SOUTH LEBANON, ETC. HE IS BITTER ABOUT SINAI II AND CONTENDS FORMER SECRETARY KISSINGER ALLOWED INADEQUATE TIME TO STUDY DRAFT AND PUT ONE OVER ON EGYPTIANS AT THAT TIME. HE IS EQUALLY UNHAPPY ABOUT SADAT PEACE INITIATIVE, WHICH HE INSISTS ON BELIEVING WAS UNDERTAKEN AT OUR INITIATIVE AND WHICH HE IS CONVINCED WILL ULTIMATELY GIVE ISRAEL EVERYTHING IT WANTS AND ONLY LOSER WILL BE EGYPT. AFTER SADAT INITIATIVE HE BADLY WANTED OUT OF ANYTHING HAVING TO DO WITH MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM. HE IS KNOWLEDGEABLE AND INTELLIGENT, BUT ALSO CARPING AND ULTRASUSPICIOUS OF U.S. INTENTIONS.

5. HIS WIFE, MYRA, IS CHARMING AND CULTIVATED, BUT SUFFERS FROM AN EYE AFFLICTION WHICH CAN AT TIMES BE DISCONCERTING. BOTH OSMANS ENJOYED THEIR TOUR IN NEW CONFIDENTIAL

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YORK.

6. YOU WILL FIND THE OSMANS PLEASANT (ALTHOUGH AHMED IS SOMETIMES A BIT WEARING) COLLEAGUES EVEN IF THEY ARE QUITE DIFFERENT FROM THE SIRRYYS. OSMAN TELLS US HE EXPECTS LEAVE IN ABOUT TWO MONTHS. EILTS

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